

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 16, 2021

**DISSENTING VIEWS ON SUBTITLE B.
BUDGET RECONCILIATION LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES THROUGH HOME VISITING
PROGRAMS**

Committee Republicans oppose Subtitle B. This legislation represents a missed opportunity to work in a bipartisan manner to improve health and development outcomes for children and families in poverty through evidence-based home visiting programs. In December, Republicans and Democrats worked together to create new flexibilities in the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program – or MIECHV – through the end of the fiscal year. These and other provisions of the *Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act* were signed into law as part of the year-end COVID relief package (P.L. 116-260).¹⁸ These temporary flexibilities were a direct response to the pandemic and included virtual home visits, sustained funding for staffing regardless of enrollment, expenditures for training, acquisition of technology for virtual home visits, and providing emergency supplies to families. They also temporarily provided HHS with authority to delay certain deadlines that may be impacted by the pandemic, including performance measure data reporting and statewide needs assessments. Just one month later, Committee Democrats are taking a “go it alone” approach shutting out Republicans on an issue with a rich history of bipartisan support.



Kevin Brady
Republican Leader
Committee on Ways and Means

¹⁸ “Walorski, Davis Applaud Inclusion of Foster Youth Support in COVID-19 Relief Bill,” December 21, 2020.